

Sciencenter opens 'Japan and Nature' show

ITHACA – This September, area residents can discover Japan without buying a plane ticket to Asia. *Japan and Nature: Spirits of the Seasons* is an exciting new exhibition that introduces visitors of all ages to how nature is celebrated in Japan through hands-on activities, dramatic play and multi-media experiences.

"For the Sciencenter, a museum known for its interactive exhibits, this exhibition takes interactivity to a whole new level," says Lara Kimber, acting executive director. "With authentic Japanese artifacts, art supplies, costumes and other interactive materials, this exhibition invites families to explore Japan's geography and to discover how people's lives are shaped by where they live."

The Sciencenter welcomes the community to join in the opening celebration of *Japan and Nature* on Saturday, September 29.

Visitors will enjoy a special presentation at 11 a.m. by

landscape architect Marc Keane titled *Shiki: The Art of Nature in Japan*, which illustrates how nature influences Japanese art and culture.

Then at 2 p.m., the Sciencenter welcomes Yamatai, the Cornell University Taiko drum team for a heart-pumping musical performance. Throughout the afternoon on opening day, Sciencenter volunteers from Japan will be on hand to guide visitors through origami activities from 12 to 4 p.m.

Japan and Nature's day-long opening celebration is made possible with the generous support of the Tompkins Trust Company. Special programs and activities for the exhibition are being coordinated in partnership with the Einaudi Center for International Studies and the East Asia Program of Cornell University. All opening day programs and events are included with Sciencenter admission.

For more information, go to www.sciencenter.org.



Provided

Yamatai, the Cornell University taiko drum team, during an Asia Night performance this year. The taiko drum group will perform at the Sciencenter at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29, as part of the exhibition opening of "Japan and Nature: Spirits of the Seasons."